

Submitter: David Mildrexler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am a resident of Oregon with expertise in ecosystem science, global change biology, remote sensing, forest science, and a number of related fields. I am contacting you to express my strong support for HB 4134. I was born and raised in Oregon, and I have such great memories of times outdoors experiencing Oregon's rich diversity of wildlife in the mountains, deserts, lakes, and coasts. When I was a kid growing up in northeast Portland, there was wildlife all around our Parkrose neighborhood. Playing tennis at Argay Park, two things would stop practice – fighter jets and red-tailed hawks.

Experiencing this diversity of life shaped who I am, and gave me appreciation for all things living. Now I am raising my children in Oregon and I can see that they feel the same way about their homeland. But they also have a sense of uncertainty about the future that I did not have as a child. There is less wildlife around as development has destroyed habitat and species extinction is a global problem. I want them to be able to share Oregon's rich diversity of life with their children someday. And that includes all life, from the big game species in Wallowa County where I live now, to the amazing diversity of life in the coastal rainforests where I was raised. We need a strong dedicated source of funding that can help protect all the species that live in Oregon. That's why I'm writing with my strong support for HB 4134.

HB 4134 comes at a critical time when wildlife and those that help manage it need help. Funding is crucial. And while this is a modest tax increase that I will enthusiastically pay when I'm traveling in Oregon as I frequently do, it would bring meaningful help to protect our wildlife, safeguard communities, and strengthen our tourism economy that depends on a healthy environment, without increasing my daily cost of living.

Our shared love for wildlife brings us together as Oregonians. I have often communicated this with my State Senator and Representative, who both support this legislation. Let's take this important opportunity to come together and pass this legislation for all and for all future generations of Oregonians.

Thank you,
David Mildrexler, PhD